

content of iron. It is one of the rarest in the world, but the price fixed at this moment is extremely very low. Is the hon. Minister thinking of increasing the price as soon as possible? If it is not so, please don't sell it at so low a price so that our own steel plants which are coming up today can make use of it. For example there is the Bhilai Steel Plant. It has got only 4.5 million tonnes of iron-ore now. It is going to touch the 10 million tonnes mark. It has got high content of iron ore. Unless we get high price, will the Minister think of stopping the selling of iron-ore abroad? Rather, it can be consumed and produced in our own country.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am keeping many things in mind. I would appeal to hon. Members not to force me to disclose these things. These are matters to be negotiated. You can rest assured we will secure for India the best advantage keeping in mind the quantity for export and the quantity for domestic consumption.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Sir, fortunately India is one of the few countries in the world which has got one of the largest iron-ore deposits. But it does not mean that our iron-ore should be sold at a throw away price. What we are getting as \$ 25 per metric tonne, including the freight rate from the mines to the port, is a throw away price. Is the Minister aware of this fact that as back as 1974-75 a decision was taken that we would not export iron-ore but rather we would like to export iron-pellets, pig-iron and sponge-iron so that we could have much higher and better prices? Will the Minister take up this issue before exporting the iron-ore in such a big quantity? I am told the Japanese are dumping it in the sea, because they do not have iron-ore, they will use it for the coming years as they are purchasing it at such a low price.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I am aware of the matters which the hon. Member Shri Chandra Jeet Yadav has expressed. I am aware of a number of other factors also. I can only assure this honourable House that I will ensure that the best advantage is se-

cured for India. I do not wish to criticise what has happened. I am only pointing out that the agreement entered into on 7.2.91 is an annual agreement valid only for 1991-92. We are at liberty to decide to sell or not to sell, the quantity and the price I will keep every suggestion in mind every factor in mind when the time comes for the next negotiation.

[Translation]

Pension to Ex-servicemen

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*822. **PROF. PREM DHUMAL :**
SHRI ANAND RATNA
MAURYA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of ex-servicemen in the country, State - wise and the total amount of pension being paid to them;

(b) whether there are ex-servicemen who are not getting any pensions; and

(c) if so, the number of such ex-servicemen, State-wise?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Verified figures of the number of ex-Servicemen in the country are not available. The total number of Armed Force pensioners in the country is 11,00,180, as per details in Annex 'A'. The total amount of pension paid to them during 1990-91 was approx Rs.1105 crores.

2. Statistics regarding the number of ex-Servicemen who are not in receipt of pen-

sions are not maintained. Ex-Servicemen who have not rendered the minimum pensionable service as per the Pension Regula-

tions or have received lump sum gratuity in lieu of monthly pension etc. are not entitled to receive pension.

ANNEX 'A'

Statement Showing State-Wise Number of Ex-Servicemen Pensioners

1.	U.P.	2,10,757
2.	Bihar	30,381
3.	Orissa	8,743
4.	West Bengal	39,464
5.	M.P.	24,266
6.	Meghalaya	1,968
7.	Assam	17,116
8.	Nagaland	8
9.	Manipur	2,070
10.	Punjab	1,40,629
11.	Haryana	1,10,065
12.	H.P.	47,355
13.	Rajasthan	82,143
14.	J & K	38,385
15.	Chandigarh	5,600
16.	Delhi	23,328
17.	Maharashtra	96,768
18.	Gujarat	5,863
19.	Goa	550
20.	Tamil Nadu	66,767
21.	Andhra Pradesh	38,158
22.	Karnataka	30,154

23.	Kerala	79,128
24.	Pondicherry	514
Total:-		11,00180

[Translation]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the figures given by the hon. Minister in regard to the number of Ex-servicemen reveal that he does not possess verified figures. I wonder, in such circumstances as to how the Government would do welfare of Ex-servicemen. Part (a) of my question is whether the Government proposes to take measures in future to make the information in regard to Ex-servicemen available at the time of census so that the cases of those widows who do not get pension are settled. Part (b) of my question is whether the Govt. will consider to give employment in para military forces on priority basis to such Ex-servicemen who have not been able to complete the full term of their service due to unavailable circumstances.

[English]

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: Sir, the figure 11 lakh given is the number of pensioners. The number of ex-servicemen is about 43 lakhs as per the statistics collected from the State Governments. We have, from the Defence Ministry, requested information on ex-servicemen to be added, to the questionnaire used during the census. They have done that. We hope that the census figures will be available very shortly and then the exact figure of ex-servicemen will be known to us.

As regard the latter para of the supplementary, I can only say that the request can be considered on merits.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**[English]****Privatisation of NTC Mills**

*817. **SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal regarding privatisation of some of the textile mills which are at present under the National Textile Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Common Examination for Recruitment of Probationary Officers in Nationalised Banks.

* 818. **SHRI RAM NARESH SINGH:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of examinations conducted separately in 1990-91 for recruitment of Probationary Officers in the different nationalised banks;

(b) the expenditure incurred on conducting these examinations;

(c) whether there is any proposal to hold a common examination for recruitment of probationary officers by all the nationalised banks, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) According to the information received from the ten Banking Service Recruitment Boards, who recruit officers for various